

firefighters and emergency personnel should be recognized.

Last year, I was proud to work with Senator STEVENS, Senator HATCH and other members of the committee to enact legislation, which I cosponsored, to authorize the President to award and present the Medal of Valor to public safety officers, upon the selection and recommendation of the Medal of Valor Review Board, for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.

Well before the terrorist attacks, Congress and the President decided that the award would have the most meaning if firefighters and police and other public safety officers themselves—the peers of those who will be honored—made the selections of candidates.

All 11 members of the Medal of Valor Review Board have now been appointed and the Board met for the first time last month. I have full faith that the Medal of Valor Review Board members will work quickly to award the Medal of Valor to their fellow public safety officers involved in the September 11 terrorist attacks. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I certainly support awarding the Public Safety Medal of Valor to the fallen heroes of September 11.

Since my time as a Chittenden County States' Attorney in Vermont, I have taken a keen interest in law enforcement in my home State and around the country. Vermont has the reputation of being one of the safest states in which to live, work and visit, and rightly so. In no small part, this is due to the hard work of those who have sworn to serve and protect us. We should do all we can to support and protect them and all public safety officers nationwide.

I am proud of my legislative record in support of the public safety officers in Vermont and the Nation. For example, Senator CAMPBELL and I authored the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Acts of 1998 and 2000 to create and then expand the \$25 million Department of Justice program to provide grants to law enforcement officers to buy bulletproof vests. This grant program has funded almost 1,000 lifesaving vests for Vermont officers and more than 300,000 vests for officers across the country.

Specifically in response to the terrorists attacks of September 11, I negotiated a retroactive \$100,000 increase in the total benefit under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program as part of the USA PATRIOT Act. Congress needed to act immediately to provide much-needed relief for the families of the brave men and women of law enforcement who sacrificed their own lives for their fellow Americans. Although an increase in the PSOB benefits can never be a substitute for the loss of a loved one, it was the right thing to do for the families of our fallen heroes. In addition, I helped draft legislation to create the September 11 Victims Compensation Fund to provide

fair and quick compensation to terrorist victims and their families.

I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner with my Senate colleagues on legislation to support our Nation's public safety officers who put their lives at risk every day to protect us.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 243) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 349, S. Con. Res. 75.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 75) to express the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to public safety officers killed or seriously injured as a result of the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001, and to those who participated in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts in the aftermath of those attacks.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 75) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 75

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed 4 civilian aircraft, crashing 2 of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon, and a fourth in rural southwest Pennsylvania;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans and many foreign nationals were killed and injured as a result of the surprise terrorist attacks, including the passengers and crews of the 4 aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency assistance personnel, and bystanders;

Whereas hundreds of public safety officers were killed and injured as a result of the ter-

rorist attacks, many of whom would perish when the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed upon them after they rushed to the aid of innocent civilians who were imperiled when the terrorists first launched their attacks;

Whereas thousands more public safety officers continued to risk their own lives and long-term health in sifting through the aftermath and rubble of the terrorist attacks to rescue those who may have survived and to recover the dead;

Whereas the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-12, 115 Stat. 20) authorizes the President to award and present in the name of Congress, a Medal of Valor to public safety officers for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas the Attorney General of the United States has discretion to increase the number of recipients of the Medal of Valor under that Act beyond that recommended by the Medal of Valor Review Board in extraordinary cases in any given year;

Whereas the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001 and their aftermath constitute the single most deadly assault on our American homeland in our Nation's history; and

Whereas those public safety officers who perished and were injured, and all those who participated in the efforts to rescue whomever may have survived the terrorist attacks and recover those whose lives were taken so suddenly and violently are the first casualties and veterans of America's new war against terrorism, which was unanimously authorized by the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Senate Joint Resolution 23, enacted September 14, 2001): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should award and present in the name of Congress a Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to every public safety officer who was killed or seriously injured as a result of the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001, and to deserving public safety officer who participated in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts in the aftermath of those attacks; and

(2) such assistance and compensation as may be needed should be provided to the public safety officers who were injured or whose health was otherwise adversely affected as a result of their participation in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts undertaken in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 348, S. Con. Res. 66.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 66) to express the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be awarded to public safety officers killed in the line of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.